

S/N 09/541,857

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James Digby Collier et al.

Examiner: Tuan Thieu Lam

Serial No.: 09/541,857

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Title: INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 31-58 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 59-84:

- Sub C1  
B1
- 59.(New) A signal generating circuit comprising:
- a first generating means for generating a first periodic signal;
  - a second generating means for generating a second periodic signal which is in anti-phase with the first periodic signal;
  - a frequency divider circuit comprising:
    - (i) first and second input terminals for respectively receiving the first and second periodic signals;
    - (ii) an even number of amplifier stages connected in series with an output of the last amplifier stage being connected to an input of the first amplifier stage, wherein each amplifier stage has an associated propagation delay and a transistor coupled between a supply terminal and a reference terminal for modulating the propagation delay through the associated amplifier stage;
    - (iii) means for applying said first periodic signal received at said first input terminal to a control electrode of said transistor of the or each odd amplifier stage and for applying said second periodic signal received at said second input terminal to a control electrode of said transistor of the or each even amplifier stage, to modulate